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FBI SEEKS LEADING ROLE IN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES

Competition With CIA

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(L. Petrov article: "Competition in Espionage")

(Text) Fierce encounters between competitions are a daily feature in the life of the decaying society of American imperialism. The United States could not exist for a single day without them. Banana kings fiercely compete with pineapple kings, oil kings with coal kings, and railway kings with aviation kings. In the United States, even the intelligence services compete. Military intelligence competes with CIA and the State Department intelligence service and FBI, the offspring of Edgar Hoover, with all of these agencies.

Fortune has recently turned away from CIA and its directors. Allen Dulles, brother of the ill-famed Foster Dulles, secretary of state under President Eisenhower and a major expert in putsches, intrigues, forgeries, and murder, was the first director to be pensioned. John McCone, his successor, retained his post only for a short time. He too, was ruined--by Cuba, or more precisely, by the Caribbean crisis. It is true that the late President Kennedy took pity on old Mac in consideration of his merits in the nuclear field. However President Johnson replaced him.

The new CIA Director, retired Rear Admiral Raborn, was rather remotely connected with intelligence. Being a native of Texas, he used to play with Johnson in his childhood, as people say. This was probably the reason for his appointment. However, having seen for himself that the former admiral, who had unexpectedly become an intelligence expert, would hardly succeed in the foreseeable future in putting his agency in order, President Johnson decided to contact an old friend who had rendered quite a few services to many presidents, namely FBI Director Edgar Hoover.

This custodian of the most sinister secrets of many outstanding or less outstanding Americans alike has served with the FBI for 40 years. Having reached the zenith of his power and influence, he has become a formidable figure on the political scene and his long-time friendship with the President has made him almost invulnerable. Johnson's friendship with Hoover has lasted for some 30 years. When, after his mother's death, Hoover settled down in the 30th district of Washington, the Johnsons soon became his neighbors.

Exploiting his friendship with the President, Hoover wanted above all to settle accounts with his old competitor and adversary, the CIA. Hoover could not forgive CIA for having taken over after the war activities in the Western Hemisphere previously handled by the FBI. The resentment was so serious that sometimes the FBI did not even deem it necessary to reply to CIA requests although it was obliged to do so. Matters went so far that the FBI began to send the President its own daily reports on the same problems as did CIA. Everything was done in a professional manner. It was made easier by the fact that quite a few FBI agents were among responsible CIA workers. The reports of Hoover's agency were so well founded that on several occasions the President adopted decisions on their basis.

The competition became a secret war. On 25 October the New York HERALD TRIBUNE under a large headline published a report that the FBI planned to send agents to all areas of CIA activities in the Latin American countries. These people would not only check on CIA activities but also send "objective" information to President Johnson. The counterblow was not slow in coming. On that same day, FBI Director Hoover refuted the newspaper report. However he admitted that it was true that the FBI had in fact dispatched 20 agents, but only to the Dominican Republic and not abroad. Their mission was allegedly only to expose of the role of communists in the Dominican crisis and their functions did not exceed "police norms."